(b) whether the High Power Committee headed by Pt. Kamlapati Tripathi also submitted a report which suggested the abolition of sales tax levy; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to introduce additional excise duty in place of sales tax having sales tax at first point only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No representation from the Traders' Association of India headed by Shri Gupta demanding abolition of sales tax has been received in the recent past.

(b) The Expert Committee on replacement of sales tax headed by Shri Kamlapati Tripathi, M.P. studied the financial implications of the extension of the scheme of additional excise duties in lieu of sales tax on vanaspati, drugs and medicines, cement, paper and paper board, and petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States could be safeguarded, and submitted its report on 29-1-1983 which was placed on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 29-4-83.

(c) As sales tax is mainly a State subject of taxation, any reform in sales tax can be undertaken only in consultation with and with the cooperation of the State Governments. Efforts made so far have not resulted in reaching a consensus.

Curbing of black money

1127. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take some strong package measures to curb the generation of black money in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No such package measures have been decided. The recommendations of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy are under active consideration of the Government.

Alleged cheating of innocent persons by Manpower Agents in Delhi

1128. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a gang of so-called manpower agents involved in cheating innocent persons desiring to go abroad for seeking jobs, was arrested in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government have taken to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details have been asked for from the Delhi Police and the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

CBI investigation into cases against Shri R. K. Jain and Poddars

1129. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 730 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 1985 and state:

(a) whether the investigation of the cases against Shri R. K. Jain and Poddars referred to the C.B.I. have since been completed and charge-sheets filed in the Court; if not, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(b) what is the progress of the cases filed by the Punjab & Sind Bank and the State Bank of Patiala to recover the money from the borrowers and the total amount inovlved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation, which has registered four cases against Shri R. K. Jain, Poddars and others regarding the fraud committed by them on